

Forest Plan Components— Standards

A standard is a mandatory constraint on project and activity decision making, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1) (iii)).

- Place definitive design constraints on projects and activities using mandatory language, such as “must”
- Are stated in a way that clearly shows a connection between the standard and achieving or maintaining a desired condition
- May apply to all or part of the Plan area
- Are written clearly and without ambiguity so that consistency of a project or activity with a standard can be easily determined
- Are written so they are in accord with agency authorities, and the inherent capability of the plan area
- Should not restate direction from other sources such as laws, regulations, and Forest Service directives, but may cite to other sources. The plan may need to interpret how laws, regulations, or policies are to be carried out
- Should not direct or compel processes such as analysis, assessment, inventory, or monitoring
- Must not restate other plan components
- Do not use standards if another plan component, such as desired conditions or suitability of uses, would better express the intent
- Are informed by best available scientific information
- Guidelines should be used instead of standards in cases where uncertainties are high
- Are not project or activity decisions, public use prohibitions, or designations of roads, trails, or areas for motor vehicle use under 36 CFR 212.50

Examples

- Do not authorize timber harvests in management area 4.
- Do not approve the applications for wind, solar, or hydrological power facilities in management area 4.
- When authorizing timber harvest, do not allow timber felling or heavy equipment within 100 feet of the banks of perennial streams.
- When constructing fencing in the Black Mesa Geographic Area, 18 inch smooth wire construction must be used for pronghorn.
- Prohibit mountain bicycles in management area 4.
- Require that food be stored in bear-proof containers in XX Wilderness.
- Prohibit camping within 100 feet of ponds, lakes, trails, or streams except in designated sites.
- Restrict horses and pack stock to those portions of the trail system specifically designated for their use. Prohibit off trail riding.
- Limit group size to no more than 10 people.